

August 25, 2023 • Vol. 4, Issue 175 • \$5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS





This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

Charles Darwin is buried alongside kings and queens at Westminster Abbey in London, England.



The Oosterschelde ship

Who is Sarah Darwin?



Sarah Darwin

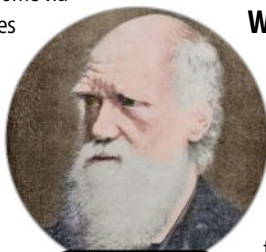
Sarah Darwin, age 59, is the great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin. A British botanist and researcher, she is supporting the Darwin200 mission, which she called "an incredible project" with a "timely and noble ambition." Darwin Leaders, she said, "will reach and inspire vast audiences worldwide."

Conservation voyage sets sail

August 15 marked the launch of the Darwin200 project, an exploration of the natural world that includes 200 young conservationists. The centerpiece of the two-year adventure is a ship called the Oosterschelde. It departed from England and will retrace a historic voyage taken nearly 200 years ago by renowned scientist Charles Darwin.

Who was Charles Darwin?

Darwin (1809–1882) was a British biologist and naturalist who changed the way people understand the natural world. In 1831, he set sail on a ship called the HMS Beagle. He traveled from England to South America, then across the Pacific Ocean to Australia before heading home via Africa's west coast. Darwin took notes and collected plants, animals, and fossils. On the Galápagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador, he noticed that birds called finches were different from finches on the mainland. He determined that these differences helped the birds survive. This led to his most famous work—the theory of evolution—which explains how species change over time to adapt to their environments, a process called natural selection. His theory has been described as "the biggest single idea in the history of human thought."



Charles Darwin

What is the Darwin200 mission?

The goal of the mission is to empower the next generation of conservationists and engage people in protecting the natural world. The trip will cover more than 46,000 miles and drop anchor at more than 32 stops on four continents where Darwin conducted research. A group of specially chosen conservationists between the ages of 18 and 25 from around the world, called Darwin Leaders, will participate in the mission. They will study the same species as Darwin, including armadillos, howler monkeys, and dragon trees. They will also monitor seabirds, marine life, plastic waste in the oceans, and the health of coral reefs.

What is it like on the ship?

The Oosterschelde is a 164-foot-long vessel built in 1918. It carries 24 people, including seven crew members. The ship is outfitted with cabins with bunk beds, five bathrooms and five showers, and a wood-paneled dining hall with long tables and stocked bookshelves. Captain Gerben Nab said that although sailing the ship can be challenging, "when all the sails are up, a gentle breeze is blowing, and the ship is picking up speed, that moment feels like magic."

How will young people be involved?

Darwin Leaders will each spend a week on the ship studying an animal or plant that Charles Darwin once studied. Larissa Vidal Melo, a college student in Brazil, will study the protection of Guiana dolphins and Bryde's whales. Herizo Randrianandrasana, of Madagascar, is a biologist interested in his home island's amphibians, including frogs, newts, and toads. He will document Madagascar's tropical rainforests. Tessina Strelow, of Germany, is an artist, writer, and filmmaker who wants to inspire other young people to defend the natural world. Each Darwin Leader will ultimately produce a film, photo essay, and report on their findings.

How can people follow along?

Members of the public can pay to join any of the voyage's 32 legs, for prices ranging from \$445 to about \$8,000. Anyone can follow along at darwin200.com/outreach, which features videos, virtual lectures, activities, and a weekly online "nature hour" to highlight conservation work. Organizers said this free content will create "the world's most exciting classroom," which they hope will reach as many as 200 million students. "Through education and driving passion for conservation, our mission is to change the world," said Stewart McPherson, cofounder of Darwin200.

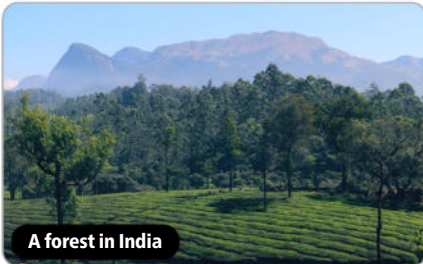


India hitting its climate goals

India has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions rate by 33% in 14 years, according to a new report by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working together). Greenhouse gases remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, which warms the planet and contributes to climate change. India has the highest population of any country and is the world's third largest contributor of global emissions, after China and the US.

The report said India is ahead of schedule on a commitment to cut emissions by 45% by 2030. This is due to the country's increased use of renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, and reduced use of fossil fuels, like coal and oil. Fossil fuels release a harmful gas called carbon dioxide (CO₂). Forest cover has also increased in India. The trees help remove CO₂ from the air.

India's government has promoted renewable energy across numerous industries. It now accounts for more than 25% of the nation's power generation. The UN report could be a signal to other countries to make the energy shift.



A forest in India



Luna-25 takes off.

SPACE JOURNEY

In 1961, Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person ever to travel to outer space.

Russia launches Moon mission

A rocket carrying a robotic spacecraft lifted off from Russia on August 10, beginning that nation's first Moon mission since 1976. The Luna-25 lander is expected to land near the south pole of the Moon as early as August 21.

Luna-25's chief mission will be to test equipment and technology Russia hopes to use in future space exploration. It will also probe unexplored terrain near the south pole, where water ice has previously been discovered. The ice is a possible source of water that could one day support life on the Moon.

According to Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, Luna-25 will scoop up soil and conduct tests on its contents. This would be the first soil gathered near the Moon's south pole. Luna-25

may also excavate (dig up) some water ice under the Moon's surface.

If Luna-25 lands safely, it is set to function for at least a year before returning to Earth. Russia's next mission, Luna-26, will orbit the Moon, while Luna-27 is envisioned as a larger lander with more technological capabilities.

Several other countries have tried to land robotic spacecraft on the Moon, but only China has succeeded so far. India recently sent a lander on a spacecraft that is more energy-efficient but also slower. It is scheduled to try to touch down on August 23. Japan will also attempt to put a lander on the Moon in the coming weeks, and two US companies could launch missions before the end of 2023.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

DOUBLE DIGITS

It was a happy 10th birthday for Nhi Lin, an Asian elephant at Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC. Keepers threw the "spunky, inquisitive" girl a party, with a birthday cake made of fruits and vegetables to stomp on.



Nhi Lin and her cake



Nat Read

RIDING THE RAILS

Upon arriving in Brunswick, Maine, Nat Read, age 84, reached his goal of riding all 21,000 miles of Amtrak's train system. Read, from California, said trains have a "magic" that planes and cars don't. "I see the railroad tracks across America as the lace that ties us together," he said.

CATCHING WAVES

Tails were wagging and waves were crashing at this year's World Dog Surfing Championship in Pacifica, California. Canine contestants in various categories were judged on technique, skill, and degree of difficulty. One top dog was Derby (below), who received three medals. A portion of the event's proceeds went to charity.



Derby on his board



National news

SIGN OF HOPE

A 150-year-old banyan tree that is a historic landmark in Maui survived the fires and still stands more than 60 feet tall.



An aerial view of Lahaina in Maui after the wildfires

How you can help



If your family would like to help people in Hawaii, local nonprofits in your area may be sending funds that you could contribute to. Or you could donate to organizations in Hawaii. Possibilities include the Hawaii Community Foundation, the Maui Mutual Aid Fund, the Maui Food Bank, and Maui United Way.

Fires devastate an island in Hawaii

Devastating wildfires that erupted in Hawaii are reported to be under control but have left a trail of destruction. The blaze was Hawaii's worst natural disaster since it became a state in 1959 and the deadliest US wildfire in more than 100 years.

What happened?

On August 8, fires began spreading on Maui, one of the state's largest islands, burning at least 2,170 acres of land and destroying more than 2,700 structures. Lahaina—a historic town of 13,000 people that was once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom before the islands joined the US—was almost completely destroyed. When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 15, at least 99 people had died. Dozens of others were injured, and more than 40,000 visitors had to be taken to safety.

What caused the wildfires?

Wildfires are not uncommon in Hawaii, but these spread unusually fast, due to a combination of factors. When the fires began, nearly 16% of Maui was experiencing a severe drought (long period without rain), which made the land dry and flammable. Powerful winds coming from a storm raging in the Pacific Ocean increased the strength of the fire. The strong winds may have also caused active power lines to fall, fueling the blaze. Experts also pointed to the growing presence of non-native plant species, which now occupy nearly 25% of Hawaii's land mass and are highly flammable.

What was the immediate response?

Firefighters worked for days to put out the fires. Federal, state, and local governments deployed

search and rescue teams, including a canine search team, to look for survivors. At least two serious problems arose. Maui's emergency system of sirens, meant to alert residents to danger, did not go off, and many people said they had no warning. In addition, many fire hydrants in Lahaina ran dry, cutting off the supply of water to firefighters.

How are people being helped?

Evacuation centers have opened to house people whose homes have been destroyed. Companies are working to reopen roads and restore electricity and phone service. In an effort led by native Hawaiians, a network of volunteers delivered food, water, and other supplies by boat. Nonprofit organizations are also on the ground, working to provide essentials for people in need.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MISSION

The original meaning of the word "mission" was a religious one, and described the sending of people to inspire faith in others among a community. Over time the word came to have a broader meaning of an expedition or assignment. The root of "mission" is a Latin word meaning to "send," which is also the ancestor of "message."

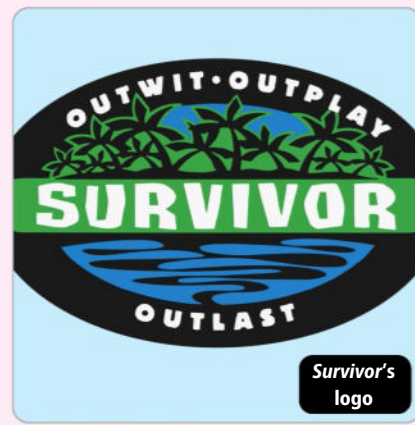


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 23, 2000

First season of *Survivor* ends

On August 23, 2000, the first season of *Survivor*—a reality TV program starring regular people instead of actors and set on a remote island—aired its finale. More than 50 million people watched the two-hour episode to see which contestant would win the last challenge for \$1 million. *Survivor* is credited with inspiring a wide variety of reality TV programs, and the genre is still popular today.



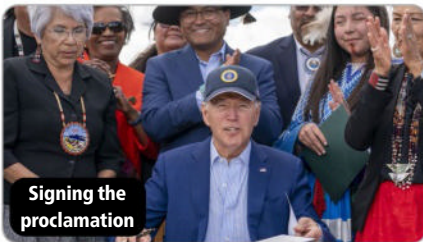
Survivor's logo



Egg prices dropped.

Food inflation continues to ease

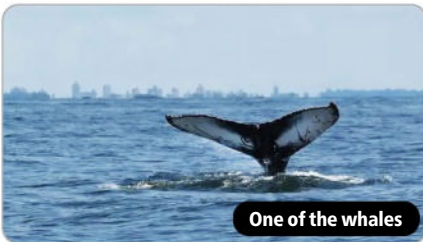
Inflation (the rate of increase in the cost of goods and services) has slowed in recent months, and the cost of some foods, such as chicken, eggs, and milk, declined in July, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. While grocery shoppers may feel relief from this news, experts say that overall food prices are still higher than they were a year ago. Items don't cost less, but they aren't increasing in price as quickly as they once were, one scientist said.



Signing the proclamation

Land by Grand Canyon protected

President Joe Biden has established a national monument around Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. A proclamation signed on August 8 protects 917,618 acres of land that is sacred to Native American tribes and prevents companies from mining it for uranium. Tribal leaders and many elected officials, including Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema, applauded the measure.



One of the whales

Whales seen near New York City

Humpback whales were spotted swimming about five miles off the coast of Brooklyn, a borough of New York City. Scientists with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) who are studying the behavior and types of whales that come to the area captured images of the mammals. "It's clear that whales have become regular New Yorkers," the WCS said in a statement.



FUN FACT
The Tilt-A-Whirl, one of the world's most popular carnival rides, made its first appearance at the Minnesota State Fair in 1926.

Rides at the California State Fair

State fairs underway across the US

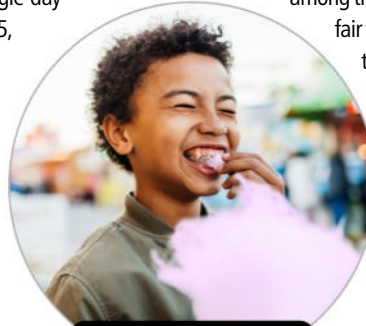
The annual tradition of state fairs has kicked off throughout the US, with many reporting record attendance compared to that of previous years.

This year's York State Fair in Pennsylvania had an attendance of about 400,000 people, an increase of nearly 50,000 from 2022. California's state fair in Sacramento had its highest four-day attendance numbers since 2019. In Ohio, the state fair in Columbus set a new single-day attendance record on August 5, with 119,660 visitors.

The first US state fair was held in Syracuse, New York, in 1841 to promote agriculture and manufacturing. Since then, state fairs have expanded to offer music, livestock shows, distinctive foods, and more. This year, the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, the largest US fair with 2.25 million annual visitors, will serve three new dishes based on a competition currently underway. Finalists include deep-fried cheesy crab tater bites, turkey ribs, and pizza topped with french fries.

Butter sculptures are a common attraction at state fairs. At the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, a sculpture of the University of Iowa's star basketball player Caitlin Clark was carved out of butter. The Iowa fair also tends to draw politicians on the campaign trail. This year, former President Donald Trump, his former vice president, Mike Pence, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis were among the candidates who visited the fair to rally support for becoming the Republican nominee for US President in 2024.

Many fairs feature historical events. The Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul will host Indigenous Peoples' Day, highlighting the culture of the first people to have inhabited Minnesota's land. Native drumming, dance ensembles, and food demonstrations will be featured. At the New York fair in Syracuse, musical artist Slick Rick, one of the pioneers of hip-hop, will perform as part of a celebration of the music genre's 50th anniversary.



Cotton candy is a popular treat at state fairs.

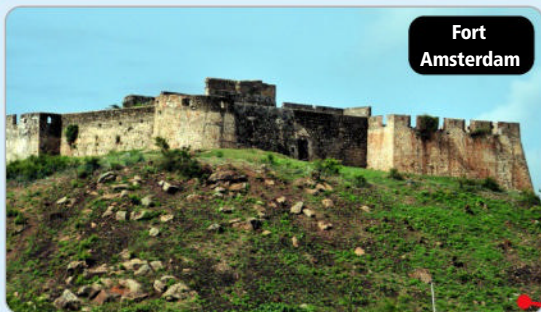
THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Truck spill covers Arkansas highway with nacho cheese" UPI





Around the world



**Fort
Amsterdam**



Kormantse, Ghana

Evidence of fort uncovered

Historians believe they have found evidence of the first fort used by the English to imprison enslaved Africans, who were captured, sold, and forced to work for no money. Remnants of what could be Fort Kormantine, built in 1631, were found underneath Fort Amsterdam, which was built later. The researchers also found other artifacts, such as pottery.



**The Amazon
rainforest**



Belem, Brazil

Countries agree to protect the Amazon

At a summit to discuss the future of the Amazon rainforest, eight South American countries promised to combat deforestation (when forests are cleared on a large scale, often for farming or industry). Part of the Amazon lies within each country. Critics said the agreement falls short and lacks measurable goals. They wanted the nations to pledge to stop all deforestation.



**Andrea
González**



Quito, Ecuador

New presidential candidate chosen

An Ecuadorian political party chose a presidential candidate to replace Fernando Villavicencio, who was assassinated (killed for political reasons) on August 9. The Build party said that new candidate Andrea González will "guarantee the legacy" of Villavicencio, meaning she will continue his work. Villavicencio was known for exposing crime and dishonest government.



Sicily, Italy

Deep sea volcanoes found

Researchers found three underwater volcanoes and a shipwreck in a deep sea area off the island of Sicily. The volcanoes are close to smaller volcanoes that haven't erupted since 1831. The team isn't sure if they're active, but they collected rock samples to study. Little is known about the shipwreck, other than it is about 328 feet long.



**One of the
rock samples**



Islamabad, Pakistan

Temporary leader named

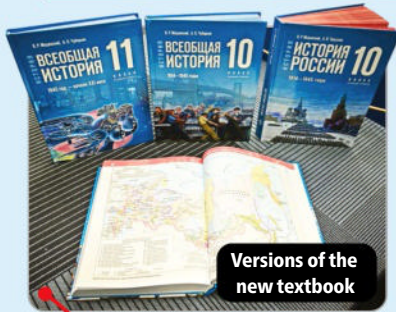
Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, a little-known politician, has been appointed the temporary prime minister before the country's next general election. Pakistani law states that a neutral leader is supposed to run the nation prior to the election. However, some political experts said Kakar was chosen by the country's powerful army, which he has strong ties to. The election is set for November but is likely to be delayed.



Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

REUTERS; GETTY IMAGES (7); OGS IT; COUNTING CORAL

Around the world



Versions of the new textbook



Russia New textbook is released

Russian leaders released a new history textbook for students ages 17 to 18 that defends Russia's invasion of Ukraine and contains many false statements. The book claims that Ukraine was aggressive toward Russia first and accuses Western nations, including the US, of trying to destroy Russia and spreading "fake information."



Narendra Modi



New Delhi, India Politicians walk out in protest

Members of India's parliament (similar to Congress) walked out during a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They protested because Modi had not yet spoken about violence in the state of Manipur. Since May, more than 180 people have died there in clashes between two groups, the Meitei and the Kuki. Modi spoke briefly about the violence after the lawmakers left.



One of the sculptures



Nacula Island, Fiji Pioneering effort to restore reefs

Counting Coral, an organization dedicated to restoring coral reefs, has placed steel artwork underwater in an effort to grow new coral. Coral reefs provide a home for ocean wildlife and protect coastlines from wave damage, but global warming has harmed them. Coral has been planted on the sculptures, and as it grows, some will be cut off and planted elsewhere.



Pokémon card players



Yokohama, Japan Global Pokémon event takes place

From August 11 to 13, thousands of fans gathered to watch the Pokémon World Championships. It was the first time the event has been held in Japan, where Pokémon was created. The championships included tournaments with Pokémon trading cards and video games like Pokémon GO. The youngest players competed in the Junior (ages 12 and under) category.



Bangkok, Thailand Building changes cause complaints

Residents in Thailand's capital city are complaining about changes to a landmark known as "the robot building." The tower was created using stacks of cubes with bolts on the side and windows designed to look like eyes. The bank that owns the building began updating it in 2022 and recently unveiled a new look. Angry locals said that many of the building's distinctive features have been altered or removed.



The building in 2016



The big debate

Should we say goodbye to grass lawns?

Some people want manicured front yards, but others say it's time for the grass to go.

What you need to know

- As much as 2% of the land in the US is covered by residential lawns. Grass occupies more land than corn or wheat crops do.
- Outdoor water usage accounts for an average of 30% of a family's water use. That's equal to about 200 gallons of drinking water per person per day.
- According to some estimates, a family can spend about \$503 per year on caring for a lawn and garden. That adds up to nearly \$100 billion each year for all Americans.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1920s, many people grew their lawns in view of nearby railroad tracks so train passengers could see them.

Driving through an American suburb, you're likely to see blocks and blocks of lush green front yards. More than 80% of Americans have a grass lawn, and many say it's an important factor in their decision to rent or buy a home. Grass lawns have been a symbol of success in the US since wealthy families adopted the idea from European royalty in the late 1700s. In the 1800s, lawns became popular across the US. As people become more aware of climate change, however, many are wondering whether this common practice still has a place in our neighborhoods. What do you think? Should we say goodbye to grass lawns?

Yes—they're just for show

Grass is a water hog! Water is a precious resource that's in short supply in the US and the world. As climate change becomes a greater problem, lawns become less acceptable. Grass isn't a native (naturally occurring) plant in many parts of the country, so it doesn't necessarily support local wildlife. And keeping non-native lawns healthy requires tons of time and money. Lawnmowers consume a lot of gas, and chemical fertilizers used on lawns are bad for the soil. It's better to have native plants and flowers that welcome bugs and birds. Besides, having a nice lawn is an outdated symbol of success that no longer applies.

No—they make neighborhoods greener

It's undeniable that grass lawns are an attractive and fun place to have a picnic, play catch, or simply stretch out and relax on a sunny day. Lawns are also good for the environment. Many animals and insects find food and habitats in grass. And when it rains heavily, grass lawns slow down and absorb water. This helps prevent water from flooding the streets and washing away the soil. Scientists know that too much concrete raises noise levels and the temperature of the ground and air. Lawns help make cities and other crowded areas healthier, cooler, and more enjoyable for people to live in.

YES

Three reasons why we should say goodbye to grass lawns

- 1 With climate change and water shortages, it's hard to justify the resources needed to maintain grass lawns.
- 2 Most grass varieties are not native to their area, don't help local wildlife, and require a lot of work to keep healthy.
- 3 Lawns aren't a sign of success anymore. Planting native plants is more impressive.

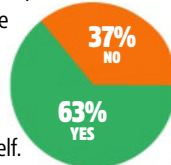
NO

Three reasons why we should not say goodbye to grass lawns

- 1 Grass can feed and shelter insects and animals, especially in dense cities.
- 2 Lawns absorb water during heavy rains. That helps keep it from running into the streets and taking the soil with it.
- 3 Concrete makes cities hotter and less comfortable, while lawns make cities cooler and more pleasant.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if a hot dog is actually a sandwich. You were "frank" in your opinions: 63% said yes while more than a third said a hot dog is a food unto itself.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think we should say goodbye to grass lawns or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Creating funny poems

Writer Chris Harris's new poetry collection tackles growing up with humor.

Chris Harris was an accomplished writer for magazines and television before he began writing children's books a few years ago. His new book *My Head Has a Bellyache* is a collection of humorous poems about life as a child and is illustrated by Andrea Tsurumi.

Harris is 52 years old or, as he told *The Week Junior*, "I'd be in the 46th grade if I were still in school." Growing up in a small town in Connecticut, he discovered his love of writing while reading poetry by Shel Silverstein and favorite novels like *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster.

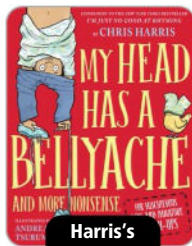
Harris's first collection of children's poems was the *New York Times* best seller *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming*, published in 2017. He wrote it shortly after becoming a parent. "It was me sharing the world with my kids," Harris

said. His new collection was inspired by watching his children become teenagers and remembering what life was like for him at that stage. The book features comical poems about grape jelly, sibling rivalries, and first crushes.

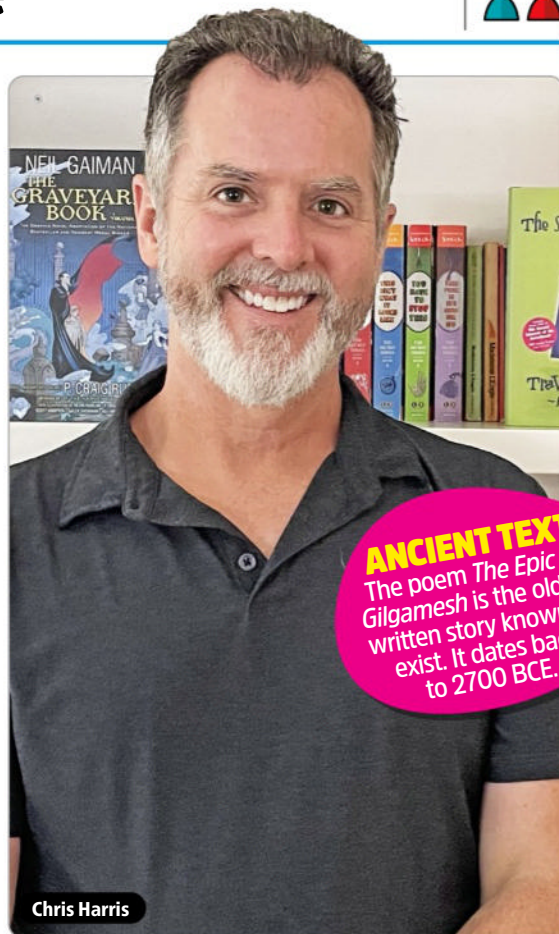
Harris said he enjoys using humor in his writing because it can help readers open up emotionally. This is particularly true for young people who might be struggling with the challenges of growing up. "You can find a form of connection through laughter and then talk

about the serious stuff," he said.

His poem "We're Not Who We Used to Be Going to Be!" is about the pressure some kids face about having to decide on their future now. "It's great to have dreams and go after what you want, but it's also OK to change your mind," Harris said.



Harris's new book



Chris Harris

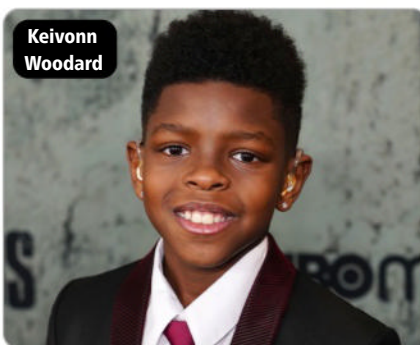
ANCIENT TEXT
The poem *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is the oldest written story known to exist. It dates back to 2700 BCE.

A vet's new mission

After US Army veteran Christy Gardner, age 41, lost both of her legs and suffered a brain injury while serving overseas in 2006, she felt hopeless. Getting a service dog "got me back into life," she told *People* magazine. Her dog Moxie eventually inspired her to start Mission Working Dogs, a nonprofit that trains service dogs for people who need them. The program now has 58 dogs and recently moved to a larger facility near Gardner's home in Maine. Running the program "feels like a great way to continue to serve," she said.



Christy Gardner



Keivonn Woodard

Honor for young actor

Keivonn Woodard, age 10, has made history with his nomination for an Emmy award (top TV honor) in the category of Guest Actor in a Drama Series. He is the youngest actor to be nominated in that category and the first deaf Black actor to become an Emmy nominee. This recognition is for his role in *The Last of Us* (rated TV-MA), a show based on a popular video game of the same name. He plays Sam, a deaf child being raised by his brother. Woodard, who is from Maryland, had never acted before this role. The Emmy winners will be announced in January.

OVERHEARD

“”



"No one person can do it all. The world does not become a better place by one person."

Actress Brie Larson, who plays Captain Marvel in the Marvel franchise, on joining forces with other superheroes in the upcoming film *The Marvels*



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

At least 176 different bird species have been seen using human-made materials in their nests.



A young magpie (right) with an adult

Birds share childcare

Researchers in Italy spotted birds from two different species sharing one nest. They believe a pair of common redstarts and a pair of black redstarts built the nest together, and now all four parents are feeding all the chicks. This is the first time birds have been seen caring for another species' young.

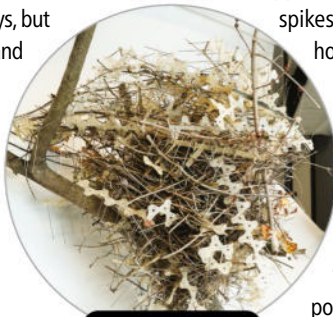


The nest

Surprising material used in bird nests

Dutch researchers have discovered that birds living in cities are using metal spikes to construct their nests. People put these spikes on buildings in order to keep birds off their balconies, benches, and chimneys, but birds seem to be stealing them and using them to keep predators away from their eggs.

The research began when, in the courtyard of a hospital in Antwerp, Belgium, biologist Auke-Florian Hiemstra found an enormous nest that had been built by a magpie. The nest was made from about 1,500 metal spikes. They were pointing outward to create a protective system around the nest.



The magpie nest found in Antwerp

"I just stared at it, this strange, beautiful, weird nest," Hiemstra told BBC News. When he investigated further, he found that magpies had stripped away nearly 165 feet of metal spikes that had been glued to the hospital's roof.

After Hiemstra made this discovery, his team heard about a similar nest created by crows in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, and another magpie nest in Glasgow, Scotland. The crows had positioned the spikes in a different way, perhaps using the metal to support the nest's structure.

In their report, the researchers mention many kinds of birds stripping spikes off buildings, but

they chose to focus their study on corvids (birds from the crow family). The researchers pointed out that there have been previous studies on how corvids use everything from telephone wires to clothes hangers to build their nests. They said the use of anti-bird spikes "hints at a functional use" — meaning the birds seem to know exactly what they're doing.

Magpies—which are corvids—have often been seen nesting in thorny hedges, where the thorns can prevent predators from attacking the vulnerable eggs and chicks inside the nest. Thorny hedges aren't common in cities, however, so the theory is that magpies use the human-made version instead. Hiemstra calls this the birds' "revenge." "We're trying to get rid of birds, [but] the birds are collecting our metal spikes and actually making more birds in these nests," he said.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Devils Tower, Wyoming

This national monument in Wyoming formed underground as molten rock about 50 million years ago. From the base, it stands 867 feet high. The top of the tower is about the size of a football field. This shape is what makes Devils Tower a butte (pronounced *byoot*), which is a hill with steep, vertical sides and a small, flat top. Originally named Bad God's Tower by Native Americans, it is still considered a sacred site. Popular activities include hiking and looking for mammals, reptiles, and birds. Visitors ages 5 to 12 can also earn a Junior Ranger badge.



Prairie dogs at the park



WOW!

A giraffe's tongue can be as long as 21 inches and strong enough to pluck the leaves off a tree.

The giraffes in Angola



Angolan giraffes return home

A group of Angolan giraffes have been released into Iona National Park in Angola, more than 20 years since they disappeared from the country.

This species is native to Angola, but a civil war in the nation caused the giraffes to disappear by the 1990s. Other species, including rhinoceroses and elephants, were also threatened by the conflict.

The effort to reintroduce Angolan giraffes was a collaboration between several organizations and the Angolan government. A group of 14 young giraffes

were brought over from a farm in Namibia, 800 miles away. After a 36-hour journey by road, they were briefly kept in an enclosure before being released into the park.

The giraffes will play an important role in maintaining a healthy natural landscape by spreading seeds and pollen throughout the park. Conservation teams are looking into the possibility of reintroducing other species to Iona, including black rhinos and lions. Park manager Pedro Monterroso told *The Guardian*, "It's great seeing a species back where it should be."

Animal of the week

Golden bandicoot



A group of rangers is working to help golden bandicoots survive. The all-female team, from an Aboriginal community that has lived in Australia for more than 50,000 years, plans to reintroduce the threatened species to Central Australia.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 2 to 3 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Wooded grasslands in Australia
- **SIZE:** 10 to 16 inches long and up to 1.4 pounds
- **DIET:** Insects, roots, seeds, and plants
- **FUN FACT:** Baby bandicoots, called joeys, spend their first month in their mother's pouch.



Good week / Bad week



Octopuses

A research team discovered an octopus nursery (a site where mothers lay and care for eggs) deep in the Pacific Ocean, near Costa Rica. This is the fourth octopus nursery ever found, and it may be home to a previously unknown species.



Cats in Cyprus

Thousands of cats have died in Cyprus from a disease caused by a feline coronavirus, which is different from the coronavirus that affects humans. Officials are working to supply medicine to veterinarians in the island nation who can treat sick cats.



"Can dogs or other animals be allergic to humans or other animals?"

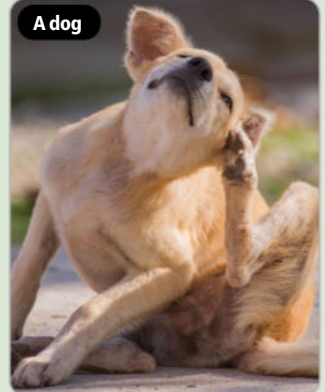
Sienna, 13, California

Dr. Sarah Carotenuto

Professor, University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine

Yes, dogs and other animals can absolutely be allergic to humans—especially to our dander (skin flakes) and the mites that live on our skin—as well as to other animals. Dogs that are allergic to humans may scratch their skin, have thinning hair, or lose their fur.

A dog



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the UA College of Veterinary Medicine at vetmed.arizona.edu.



One man's magical

An author's fairy tale for his children was the beginning of a literary legacy.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, better known as J.R.R. Tolkien, who died 50 years ago this September, may be the most famous and influential fantasy writer of all time.

The author's early life

Tolkien was born in South Africa in 1892 and moved to England with his mother and brother at age 4, following the death of his father. In 1904, when Tolkien was 12, his mother died and

a Catholic priest became his guardian. After graduating from college with honors in 1915, Tolkien enlisted in the British Army and served during World War I (1914–1918). He married Edith Bratt in 1916, and they had four children. Tolkien started working at the University of Leeds in 1920, then became a professor at the University of Oxford in 1925, teaching English languages and literature. He remained at the university until he retired in 1959.

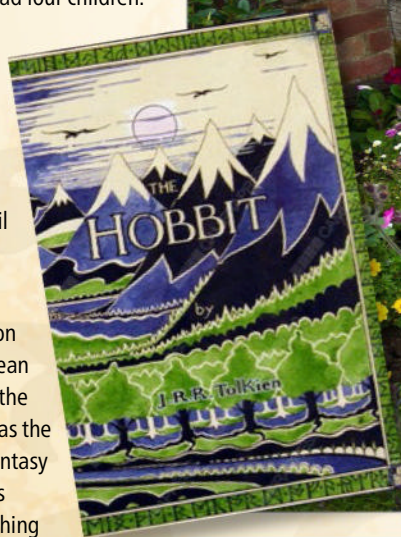
First fantasy writings

Tolkien had a great appreciation for languages and early European myths and legends, as well as the epic poem "Beowulf." As early as the 1910s, he began making up fantasy stories about imaginary worlds

and creating an overarching mythology to connect them. In the 1930s, Tolkien started working on a separate, stand-alone fairy tale about a hobbit to entertain his children. After he shared his story with colleagues, it eventually made its way to a publishing house. *The Hobbit*, with maps and illustrations drawn by Tolkien himself, was published in 1937 to widespread acclaim. It has since sold more than 100 million copies in 50 languages.



Tolkien as a young man



DID YOU KNOW?

J.R.R. Tolkien's wife, Edith, inspired the elf princess Lúthien, one of the most significant characters in his stories.

FUN FACT

While at Oxford, Tolkien was part of a literary group named "The Inklings" that included *The Chronicles of Narnia* author C.S. Lewis.

The major works

Most of J.R.R. Tolkien's stories take place in a world called Middle-earth, a land filled with immortal elves, crafty dwarves, and other magical beings.



The Hobbit

Bilbo Baggins (left) is a hobbit enjoying a quiet, comfortable life when a wizard named Gandalf draws him into a quest with a group of dwarves to recover stolen treasure from a dragon named Smaug. Bilbo's journey will take him past trolls and goblins and across the path of a magic ring.





All about J.R.R. Tolkien



fantasy world



The LOTR series in three parts

WORD WHIZ

Tolkien invented numerous languages for his fantasy stories. The most developed were elvish languages called Quenya and Sindarin.



J.R.R. Tolkien shown with a photo of the movie set built in 1999 for *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy

Expanding a world

The success of *The Hobbit* inspired Tolkien's publisher to ask him for a follow-up book. Tolkien originally submitted a collection of myths and stories titled *The Silmarillion*, but the publishers rejected it. He then spent the next 12 years writing a sequel to *The Hobbit*. Called *The Lord of the Rings*, it was published in three parts in 1954 and 1955 and included backstory from *The Silmarillion* that tied *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* to the mythology Tolkien had been developing for decades. He continued working on *The Silmarillion* for the rest of his life, until his death in 1973 at the age of 81. The work was completed by his son Christopher and published in 1977.



The Rings of Power

Tolkien's legacy

Since its publication, *The Lord of the Rings* is thought to have sold more than 150 million copies worldwide. It was adapted into a film trilogy that was a box-office success and won several Academy Awards, including Best Picture for the third film, *The Return of the King*. Another series inspired by Tolkien's work, *The Rings of Power*, is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. Today, Tolkien is credited with establishing the modern fantasy genre, and later fantasy writers such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Terry Pratchett, and Neil Gaiman have cited him as an influence. Pratchett once wrote, "J.R.R. Tolkien has become a sort of mountain, appearing in all subsequent fantasy in the way that Mount Fuji appears so often in Japanese prints."

The Lord of the Rings

Years after the events of *The Hobbit*, the wizard Gandalf (left) sends Bilbo's nephew, Frodo, on a quest to destroy his uncle's magic ring, which the Dark Lord Sauron hopes to find and use to conquer Middle-earth. Frodo meets several heroes, such as the ranger Aragorn, on the way.



The Silmarillion

A prequel to *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, this book tells of the creation of Middle-earth and the elves, as well as the early years of elven rulers such as Galadriel (left). It also entails wars fought over three fabulous jewels, called the Silmarils, against the Dark Lord Morgoth.



DID YOU KNOW?
Humans began shifting from hunter-gatherer societies to farming societies about 12,000 years ago.



An artist's rendering of an ancient woman hunting

Ancient women hunted animals

For many years, scientists have believed that in ancient human societies, men hunted animals for food while women gathered plants to eat. Results of a new study challenge this belief. Researchers at two universities in Washington found that women in these societies, which existed before the widespread adoption of farming, hunted animals as well.

The scientists studied 63 societies, including 25 groups from the Americas, 15 from Australia, and 12 from Africa. The team examined information about these societies that was gathered between 1888 and 2020.

They found that in 50 out of the 63 groups (79% of those studied), there was evidence of women hunting. And in most of these groups, women were said to have hunted intentionally, meaning they actively went out and looked for animals for food, rather than just killing animals they happened to come across. Women who did hunt intentionally hunted animals of all sizes, including large ones.

"The women would go out with many different tools...and if they saw an animal,

they would kill it," Cara Wall-Scheffler, one of the authors of the new study, told *Live Science*. The team was surprised to find that it was not considered unacceptable for women to hunt.

The researchers also found that women often hunted differently than men. Women were more likely to hunt in groups, while men were more likely to hunt alone or with one partner. Women would hunt with children, carrying babies or letting older children join them.

Women also tended to bring dogs and use different hunting tools. For example, among the Agta people of the Philippines, men mainly hunted with bows and arrows, while women were more likely to use knives as well as bows and arrows. There seemed to be few rules about who could hunt. "If somebody liked to hunt, they could just hunt," Wall-Scheffler said.

The new study supports previous evidence that women in prehistoric societies hunted. In 2020, researchers found that 11 skeletons from sites across the Americas—which were buried with tools for hunting large animals—were female. One skeleton of a teenage girl was 9,000 years old.



Cara Wall-Scheffler

"Ivory Lady" discovered



A skeleton found in Spain in 2008 belonged to an important woman, research has found. Experts thought the skeleton was male. But scientists recently found a gene (short section of DNA, the chemical that carries information about a living thing) in the skeleton's tooth enamel that proves it was female.

Known as the "Ivory Lady," the woman (depicted in the drawing above) was buried between 3,200 and 2,200 years ago. Items she was buried with included an ivory tusk, an ostrich eggshell, and a rock crystal dagger, indicating that she was a woman of great importance. The fact that she was buried alone, and not in a mass grave, is further evidence that she held a high rank in her society.



Ben Franklin printed cash that fooled fakers

In addition to helping establish America, Benjamin Franklin was a clever inventor who designed everything from medical instruments to eyeglasses. He also developed techniques for making paper money that made it harder for criminals to copy, according to new research.

During the 1700s, most US money was gold and silver coins, with some paper money. But Franklin wanted a paper money system and printed millions of notes. Because paper money was new, however, there was no standard design, and it was easy for criminals to make counterfeit (fake) versions. Franklin made paper bills harder to fake.

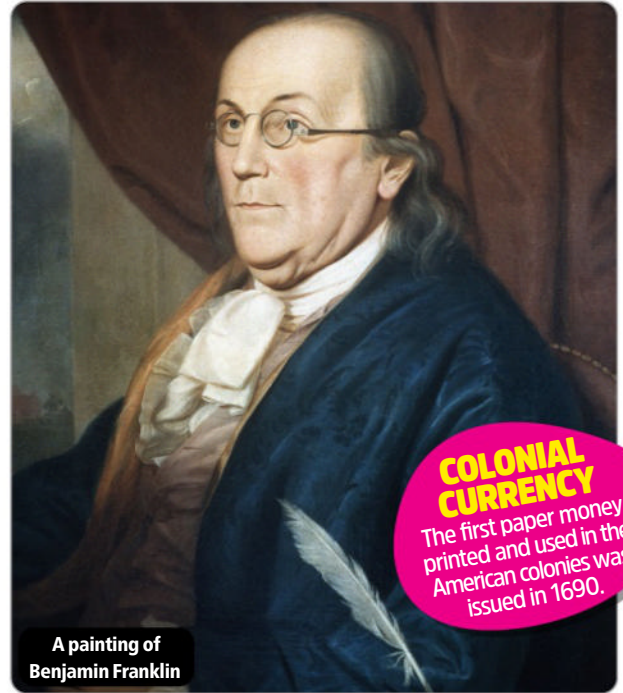
Recently, scientists at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana analyzed 600

bills printed between 1709 and 1790. Some were made by Franklin and the rest by other printers and counterfeiters. Using advanced imaging techniques, they found that Franklin used a special ink made with the mineral graphite, which was different from the ink used by other printers. He also included tiny colored squiggles and used a mineral called muscovite, which gave his bills a unique look.

The researchers speculate that Franklin first used muscovite to make his notes more durable, which would also have made them harder to copy. "Franklin had to stay a step ahead of counterfeiters," said Khachatur Manukyan, one of the authors of the study.



Money designed by Ben Franklin



A painting of Benjamin Franklin

COLONIAL CURRENCY

The first paper money printed and used in the American colonies was issued in 1690.



The test house

A house made with recycled diapers

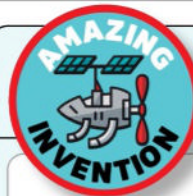
Researchers in Indonesia are reusing recycled diapers to build affordable housing while also reducing waste. Disposable diapers, which usually end up in landfills, contain wood pulp, cotton, and plastic that can be used to make inexpensive building materials.

In the past 30 years, Indonesian cities have seen about a 4% increase in population each year. More people create more waste and also put a strain on the housing

market. Using disposable diapers as an ingredient in concrete and mortar addresses both problems.

The scientists sterilized the diapers, then combined them with cement, sand, gravel, and water. They tried different formulas and found one strong enough to build a test house that has one story, two bedrooms, and a bathroom.

The mixture replaced about 27% of the materials used in the house's floors, columns, and walls.



A smart cane that steers the way



The NextGuide cane

University students in Switzerland designed a smart cane to help people with visual impairments. The NextGuide cane is lightweight, durable, and equipped with a 160-degree forward-facing camera that scans its surroundings for obstacles.

Once the cane detects an obstacle, its handle vibrates to steer the user around it. A pointer under the user's thumb tells them which way to go. Different vibrations represent doors, crosswalks, and stairs. The students created NextGuide to help a classmate.



Photos of the week

ASTRONOMY
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR
WINNERS



Glowing globule

This image, "The Eye of God," was taken by Weitang Liang in Chile.



Bright night

Filip Hrebenda shot this photo, "In the Embrace of a Green Lady," in Iceland.



SOURYADEEP MUKHERJEE, FILIP HREBENDA, GERALD RHEIMANN, WEITANG LIANG, YANG HANWEN AND ZHOU ZHEN



Burst of light

Gerald Rhemann was named the overall winner for his photo "Disconnection Event," which captured a shooting comet over Namibia.

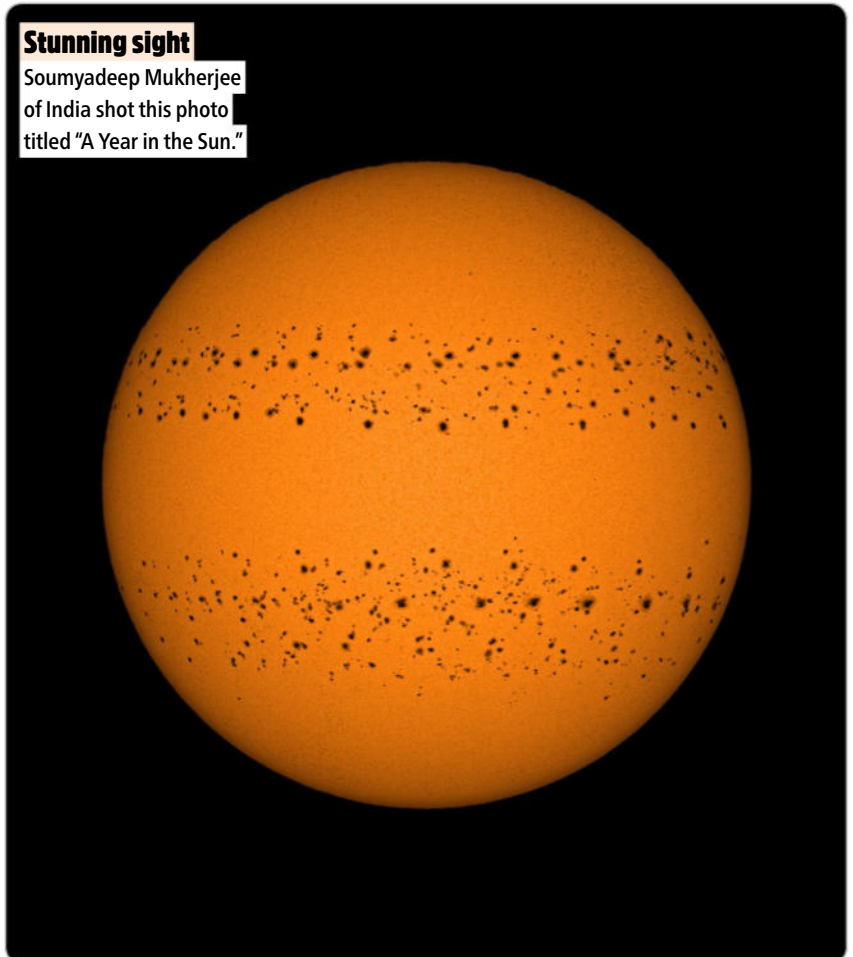


Out of this world

"Andromeda Galaxy: The Neighbor" was taken from China by Yang Hanwen and Zhou Zezhen, both age 14.

Stunning sight

Soumyadeep Mukherjee of India shot this photo titled "A Year in the Sun."





Sports

DID YOU KNOW?

Texas has won 14 Little League Softball World Series titles, the most of any state.



The Massapequa International Little League team

World Series history



In 1974, the first Little League Softball World Series was held in Freeport, New York. There were four teams: East, South, Central, and West. The winner was Wellswood Little League (above), a Florida (South) team that wore orange uniforms. Today, one LLSWS bracket is named Orange in their honor.

NY team wins Little League Softball World Series

From August 6–13, girls from the US and other countries gathered in Greenville, North Carolina, to compete in the Little League Softball World Series (LLSWS), the largest youth softball tournament in the world. In the championship game on August 13, Massapequa International Little League from New York beat Pitt County Girls Softball Little League from North Carolina, 5–2. It was the first time a team from New York has won the LLSWS championship.

Throughout the summer, Little League softball teams from around the country competed in district, section, state, and regional tournaments to secure one of eight spots for US teams in the LLSWS tournament.



Abigail Long

The North Carolina team represented the Southeast Region, and the New York team represented the Mid-Atlantic Region. Meanwhile, teams from Canada, Latin America, Europe-Africa, and Asia-Pacific competed in their own regional competitions.

Those four champions also qualified for the LLSWS.

The 12 teams of girls ages 10 to 12 were split into two brackets for the tournament, and the winners of each bracket played for the title. To make it into the final, North Carolina beat last year's LLSWS champions, a team from Texas. The New York team, meanwhile, was 15–0 coming into the LLSWS and undefeated in the LLSWS tournament leading up to the final

game. Their roster was made up of the best players from six local teams.

In the championship game, New York jumped out to a 3–0 lead in the first inning. Abigail Long batted in one of the runs and eventually scored on a close play at home. New York added a fourth run in the second inning, but North Carolina cut the lead in half in the top of the third thanks to a two-run double by Aurora Edwards. New York tacked on a fifth run in the fourth inning, and their strong pitching held North Carolina scoreless for the rest of the six-inning game.

At the end of the tournament, New York's manager, Rich Eaton, said, "We trained like a professional team. We worked out five days a week, two hours a day." Catcher Sienna Erker said she had always dreamed of winning the LLSWS and called it "an incredible feeling."

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

WORLD CUP SOCCER

At the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup on August 12, tournament co-host Australia beat France, 7–6, in an epic penalty shootout that required 20 shots before there was a winner. Australia is the second host nation to make the semifinals of a Women's World Cup. The team was set to play England on August 16. The winner of that match will face Spain in the final on August 20.



Colin Duffy, left, with other medalists

GOLF

On August 13, US golfer Lilia Vu won the Women's British Open, one of the five major championships in women's golf. It is her second major win in 2023, and she is now number one in the women's world golf rankings.

CLIMBING

American sport climber Colin Duffy won silver at the Climbing World Championships on August 12. It earned him a spot on the US Olympic team at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



WOW!
In 1896, a 10-year-old Greek gymnast competed at the first modern Olympic Games.



Da'vian Kimbrough

Teen becomes youngest pro athlete in US

On August 9, Da'vian Kimbrough, age 13, signed a contract with Sacramento Republic FC, a soccer team in California. He is now the youngest professional athlete in US team sports history. The Republic are part of the USL (United Soccer League), the second-highest division of professional soccer in the country.

Kimbrough had been a member of the club's youth development academy for two years. In his first season playing there at age 11, he competed in an under-13 division and showed tremendous potential, scoring 27 goals in 31 matches. He helped the team achieve a 30–1 record, the best record of any team in their age group in the US.

In his second season, his team finished first in MLS NEXT, a youth soccer league run by Major League Soccer. His under-14 team had a record of

26–5–3 and outscored their opponents 148–22. Kimbrough played some matches in the under-15 division as well. In two seasons of MLS NEXT play, he scored 61 goals across 81 games.

This summer, the teen was loaned to a team from the New York Red Bulls Academy for a European tournament. Not only did they win, but Kimbrough also scored six goals and was named the competition's Most Valuable Player.

Kimbrough was eligible to play his first match with Republic on August 12, but he did not make an appearance. Their next match is on August 19. Sacramento is currently in first place in the West division in the USL Championship league.

Kimbrough, who is from California, is expected to continue his education as he begins his professional career.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Kendra Wait

AGE: 20 **SPORT: VOLLEYBALL**
TEAM: CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Game on I got my start in volleyball in elementary school. My parents had me play on a rec team, and then in middle school, I started playing with a club. I enjoy the team aspect of the sport and hitting the ball really hard.

Favorite players Micha Hancock, who plays for the US volleyball team, is a great setter and a role model of mine. Also, my sister played college volleyball and she taught me about being kind and competitive.

Staying fit I love to lift weights. I know it helps me get stronger and faster so I can be even better on the court.

Mindful moments Lately, I've focused a lot on meditation. I also take time to journal or color to get out of my head and be present.

Pre-match rituals I always put on my shoes and knee pads in a certain order. Then our team has a dance party, which is really fun.

Keeping calm I use the anticipation for a big match to build myself up—I call it good nerves, not nervous nerves. Thinking about my love of volleyball also makes handling pressure a bit easier.

School rule I always get my homework done, even if it means staying up a little late or waking up early. I also make sure I'm not spending too much time on my phone so I can get everything done.

Big goals The past two years, we won the Big East conference tournament. We're hoping to get to a Final Four or continue to win the conference.

Her advice Never give up or sell yourself short.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Seungki Lee**

Team: **Maywood Sparks Swim Team**

"Our favorite thing about Coach Lee is that he always cares about our strokes more than our speed. He encourages us to do our best at every competition. If we had a hard time with a stroke, he would help us individually and fix every detail. He can be strict sometimes, but he has some humor, too. He helps us achieve our goals when we feel like giving up. He is very nice to have around. Our team motto is 'No pain, no gain.'" Lacy, 10, and Jayden, 9, California



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



FUN FACT

In Chinese, the word for “monkey” is pronounced the same way as the word for “high official.”



The Monkey King

Film based on Chinese tale

The Monkey King is an action comedy about a self-centered monkey on a quest to become an immortal king.

One of the most famous characters in Chinese literature is the Monkey King, whose story was first told in the 16th-century novel *Journey to the West*. The new animated action-comedy *The Monkey King* delivers a fresh take on his origin story. It is now on Netflix.

Many children from Asian backgrounds grow up hearing tales about the Monkey King. The film’s producer, Peilin Chou, was born in Taiwan, and she told *The Week Junior* that when she moved to the US as a child, she was shocked that kids didn’t know

about the character. One reason she wanted to make the movie was so “children around the world would be like, ‘Yes, the Monkey King!’” she said.

The film is set in ancient China, and Monkey is an arrogant troublemaker with special powers. He wants to be an immortal king, so he steals a magical stick from the Dragon King. As he tries to prove his greatness, he gets help from Lin, a peasant girl.

Journey to the West has 100 chapters, and the movie draws from the first seven. Lin was not in the book, and Chou said she and the other filmmakers call her story “a lost chapter.” For

the movie, Monkey’s stick has also been turned into a character inspired by the carpet in *Aladdin*.

The voice cast for *The Monkey King* was all Asian actors, and many were specifically Chinese Americans who treasure the story. “That was important,” Chou said. Although the film is not a musical, some of the characters sing funny songs. They were written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, creators of the hit Broadway musical *Six*.

While *The Monkey King* has many valuable lessons, Chou said Lin learns one of the best ones: “The things you do can have a profound impact on how your life turns out and how you impact the people and the communities around you.”



Peilin Chou

3 more famous monkeys

Marcel

On the hit 1990s sitcom *Friends*, Marcel was a capuchin owned by one of the main characters, Ross. He was in eight episodes and was played by female monkeys named Katie and Monkey.



H’Angus the Monkey

In the UK in 2002, the mascot for Hartlepool United Football Club was elected mayor. Stuart Drummond, the man who wore the costume, had campaigned as H’Angus as a joke. He ended up being re-elected twice.



Miss Baker

Before American astronauts went into space, this squirrel monkey was a monkeyonaut test subject. She survived a short trip into space on a Jupiter missile in 1959 and later became known as “America’s First Lady of Space.”



DID YOU KNOW?

Pittsburgh was founded in 1758 and named for British politician William Pitt.



Michelle Stitzlein's *Spring Millet* at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

Art from repurposed materials

Two new art exhibits at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden in Pennsylvania demonstrate how items meant for the trash can be turned into something beautiful. The exhibits are part of the garden's ongoing efforts to emphasize conservation, and they also connect to the institution's past.

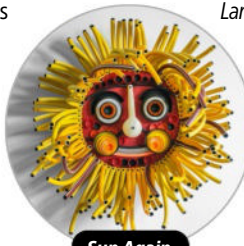
The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is in an area that was used for coal mining and logging in the 1920s. Those processes destroyed the land and polluted nearby water, and it took many years for the area to be restored. The 460-acre garden was founded in 1988.

In the garden's welcome center and outside, visitors can see pieces from artist Michelle Stitzlein's *Perennially Green: Sculptures Inspired by Nature and Created with Repurposed Materials*. One piece, *Spring Millet*, looks like a grouping of plants, but they are made of cut pieces of garden hoses.

Sun Again is a happy-face sun made with bottle caps, yellow tubing, and other found materials. Visitors can also see sculptures she made with items that include wood, a showerhead, a computer mouse, and a keyboard.

Seven large-scale pieces located around the grounds make up *Unearthed: EcoArt in the Landscape*. The works, created by local Pittsburgh artists, are made from materials that were going to be sent to landfills. Professional metal artist Jan Loney created flowers out of brightly painted shovels and garden shears. Dino Deluliis, an elementary school art teacher, contributed dogs made of styrofoam and paper-mache.

Mark Miller, a director at the garden, told *The Week Junior* that both the garden and the exhibits represent restoration and transformation. "I hope people visiting get the message that nature nurtures," he said.



Sun Again



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



The Incredible Dr. Pol (National Geographic)

Jan Pol, a world-famous veterinarian, is the star of this long-running reality series. The show follows him on visits to animal clinics and farms in Michigan. In the new season, he also helps young vets and visits his home country, the Netherlands.



Snoopy Presents: One-of-a-Kind Marcie (Apple TV+)

This special centers on Marcie from the Peanuts gang, who is shy. After coming up with good ideas for how to improve things at school, she is unexpectedly elected class president and has to figure out how to feel comfortable doing her job.



Blue Beetle (In theaters)

Blue Beetle is DC Comics' first Latino superhero. His alter ego is Jaime Reyes, a teen who gets extraordinary and unpredictable powers from an ancient alien relic. When evil forces come for the relic, Jaime has to use his powers to protect his family. The film is rated PG-13.



READER RECOMMENDS



Hidden Figures PG (Disney+, Hulu, ABC, or rent on demand)

"This true story celebrates a trio of African American women in the space industry: Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan. In segregated Virginia in the 1960s, the mathematician friends worked at NASA as 'computers,' people who made calculations. These women did incredible work, yet they faced discrimination and harsh working conditions with little or no recognition. Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy's story is truly inspiring. It's about perseverance and determination, and I highly recommend watching it with the family." Viviana, 11, New Mexico

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen



DID YOU KNOW?
John Madden was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 2006.

Madden NFL 24

Top football game gets upgrades

Madden NFL 24 is a new football video game. It is out now for the Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and the PC. It is part of the most famous and successful football video game franchise in the world.

The Madden football series originated in 1988 with a game for the Apple II computer called John Madden Football. It was named after the famous NFL (National Football League) coach and TV announcer John Madden, who died in 2021. He used to appear on the cover of the game, but since 2001 almost every edition has featured a current NFL star. This year, the honor went to Josh Allen, the star quarterback for the Buffalo Bills.

Madden NFL 24 has several big upgrades and updates. The bodies of the players have been redesigned so they look and move more like real people. The game's developers have

also improved its artificial intelligence (AI), which enables the players in the game to make better decisions and handle plays more realistically.

One of the most anticipated content updates is the return of the game's training camp feature, which had been gone from the series for many years. Now when players are in Franchise mode, they can kick off every new season with weeks of drills, practices, and strategizing. Fan-favorite mini games that test skills such as pinpoint passes and rushing have also returned. Succeeding in mini games earns you points, keeps your players sharp, and helps you to level up.

Franchise mode also comes with the return of Superstar mode, which allows gamers to control individuals on and off the field. As in real life, players in the game can become social media influencers or land huge sponsorship deals.



Josh Allen
on the cover



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

NIGHTINGALE

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music
Sarah, Dani, and Rocco are three teenagers who have discovered a portal into a magical world called Nightingale. In this spooky series, they embark on an epic adventure to stop an evil force, known as The Darkness, before it uses the portal to harm their world.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK



BABY PENGUIN TRIES TO MAKE FRIENDS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-BabyPenguin

The BBC Earth special *Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale* was about a young emperor penguin in Antarctica. This clip features the chick gaining independence from its mother and trying to connect with other young penguins in their colony.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

TOY BOX METROPOLIS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ToyBox

This free city-building game is similar to SimCity, except it is set in a child's bedroom. Using your mouse, you select buildings, landmarks, utility centers, and roads and place them on a grid. Each placement earns points, and the goal is to meet certain score objectives.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Picture Day

By Sarah Sax

(Alfred A. Knopf)

Olivia Vivian Sullivan shares her first name with at least four other classmates. Tired of being asked which Olivia she is, the seventh grader does something drastic. On the day when students are getting their picture taken for the yearbook, Olivia asks a friend to record a video of her cutting off her braid and announcing that she'd like to be called Viv, a shortened version of her middle name. Her mom sees the video and gets very upset. She takes her to a hair salon for a new style they're both happy with. But Viv still loses phone privileges.



When she gets her phone back, she has many messages from classmates asking her to help them stand out from the crowd. Viv is thrilled with the requests and excitedly gives makeovers, arranges dance proposals, and even coordinates a celebration for the math team. She's so busy that she forgets about her longtime friends. As Viv gets caught up in all the newfound attention and popularity, will it really bring her happiness? This graphic novel explores how to be a good friend while still being true to yourself. The art is as bold and colorful as Viv's hair. *Ages 10 and up*



ASK THE AUTHOR

Sarah Sax

We spoke to the author of *Picture Day*.



What inspired this book?

I was doing a daily creative writing prompt that involved writing a single sentence.

One day I imagined a girl who had scissors poised next to her bangs, and there's a flyer for school picture day next to her.



Did you like picture day when you were young?

Yes! I can look back at my school pictures and I remember why I chose each outfit. I was shy, but I loved

getting dressed for activities like school spirit day.

Have you ever reinvented yourself?

I'm always continuing to figure out how to express myself.

Do you write or draw a story first?

Sometimes I can visually articulate what I want to happen before I can do it with words, so I'll draw first.

Favorite summer activity?

Taking my dog to the beach.



4 books about the first day of school

These novels focus on the excitement and drama of returning to class.



The First Rule of Punk

By Celia C. Pérez

(Puffin Books)

On the first day at her new middle school, Malú upsets a popular classmate and violates the dress code with her punk style. Her dad reminds her of the first rule of punk: Be yourself. Will keeping his advice in mind help Malú have a better rest of the school year? *Ages 10 and up*



It's the First Day of School...Forever!

By R.L. Stine

(Square Fish)

This classic book from the author of the Goosebumps series is filled with suspense and humor. Every day, Artie wakes up and the same thing happens—he bumps his head and gets ready for the first day of fifth grade. A twist ending helps explain why nothing changes from day to day. *Ages 8–12*



New Kid

By Jerry Craft

(Quill Tree Books)

On the first day at a fancy prep school, Jordan realizes he's one of only a handful of Black students. He doesn't feel like he fits in with his classmates or his old friends in the neighborhood. Will he continue to feel stuck between the two worlds? This book is the only graphic novel to win the prestigious Newbery Medal. *Ages 8–12*



Save Me a Seat

By Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

(Scholastic)

If you're a fan of *Fish in a Tree*, you may enjoy this novel about two fifth graders. Ravi recently moved from India to New Jersey and feels like an outsider. Joe gets picked on because he needs extra help at school. As time passes, they realize they may share a lot in common. *Ages 8–12*



READER RECOMMENDS

The Magician's Elephant By Kate DiCamillo

"Peter Augustus Duchene lost his mother and father, and he is being trained to become a soldier by his guardian, Vilna Lutz. One day he goes to a fortune teller and asks if his sister is alive. He had promised his mother he would take care of his sister. The fortune teller tells him to follow the elephant. He believes the elephant will lead him to his sister, but he doesn't know if he can trust Vilna." Alice, 11, New York

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
2023**

How to...

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Cedar trees produce the most common type of wood used to make pencils.



Get organized for school

Start the year off strong with these tips and tricks for staying on track.

It's a great feeling to begin the school year organized! Having what you need where you can easily find it can make it simpler for you to manage your time and your assignments. Here's how to get started.

Gather supplies

Check your school's website for a list of supplies you need for the year, then add anything else you'd like to have. Before going to a store to buy new items, look around your home to see what you still have from last year. (You may find you have enough pencils, for example, or you can simply remove used pages from a barely used notebook you already own.) After you gather what you have, ask your family for help getting what you still need. Also, be sure to talk to a parent about any forms (like health assessments or activity permission slips) that need to be filled out and signed.

Create a homework station

Another way to prepare for the new school year is to take some time to consider where you will do your homework. Start by thinking about your own learning style. Do you like company while working? If so, your kitchen table could be a good spot. It might be useful to fill a small handled basket with homework supplies (like pencils and index cards) that you can move onto and off the table as needed. If you prefer quiet,

consider your bedroom for homework time. You can set up a small desk or table, use containers like cups or a tray to keep your supplies organized, and add personal items as you wish. If you use a computer or tablet for schoolwork, choose a place to keep it plugged in and charged.

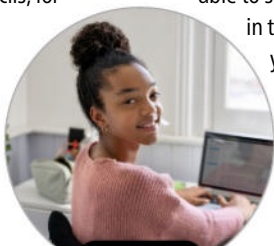
Write down important dates

A planner or calendar is a simple way to stay on top of your schedule, due dates, and appointments. Being able to see at a glance what you have coming up in the following days or weeks can also help you plan out your time and keep you from forgetting anything. You can use a paper wall calendar, a notebook planner, or an electronic calendar on a phone or tablet. The best system is the one that works for you!

Prep for each class

The best way to keep notes and papers organized is to group them by subject in a binder or folder. To do this effectively, create a labeled binder section or folder for every class you're taking, then prioritize putting away papers and assignments in their correct spots throughout the year. Do the same on your computer by using an electronic folder for each subject. When it's time to study for a test or prepare for a project, you'll know exactly where to find what you need.

**Set up a
workspace.**



Steps to streamline weekday mornings

Leaving for school on time doesn't have to be stressful. Here's how you can begin each day smoothly.

Prep for school the night before

Before you go to bed, set yourself up for success the next day. Pack your bag, lay out your clothes, and get your lunch ready.



Consider a checklist

Put a small whiteboard by the door and make a checklist of

what you need every day—like your lunch and water bottle—then check them off before you leave the house.

Have a go-to breakfast

Taking the guesswork out of what to eat every morning can save time. On Sunday, prepare one breakfast, like muffins or a big batch of oatmeal, to eat every morning. Switch it up each week!



Make mornings more fun

Having a morning ritual—something you do every

day—can help motivate you to get out of bed. For example, a ritual might be listening to a special playlist as you get ready for school.





IMPROVE YOUR TYPING SKILLS

Learning to type more accurately and quickly can help you complete your work faster and more easily. Here's how.

- 1. Get in position.** Set your computer on a desk or table. Sit up straight in a chair with your screen about 15 to 25 inches away from your face. Let your hands rest on the keyboard, with your arms bent at the elbows.
- 2. Focus on your fingers.** Start with your left pointer finger on the F key and your right pointer on the J key. Then let your other fingers fall on the D, S, and A for the left hand and K, L, and the semicolon for the right hand. Rest both thumbs on the space bar. This position will allow you to easily reach all the keys on the board.
- 3. Practice.** Start by typing out things you know well, like lyrics to a favorite song or the lines of a poem. Focus on accuracy first. You'll get faster with experience. As you get more comfortable, try to type without looking at the keyboard. You can even lay a small hand towel over your hands to keep you from peeking.



FUN FACT
One of the oldest existing bookmarks dates back to the 6th century and was made of ornamental leather.

Make an animal bookmark

What you need

- Colored duct tape
- Sheet of wax paper
- Sharp scissors
- Pencil
- Permanent marker
- Pinking shears (optional)
- Circular items for tracing, such as a quarter

Instructions

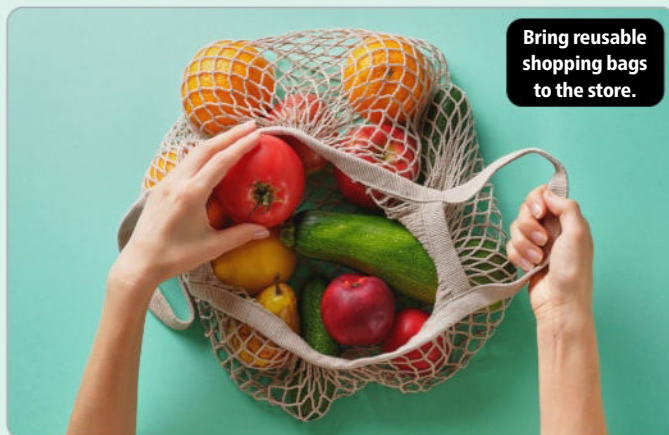
1. Cut a piece of duct tape about 8 inches long. Stick it to the wax paper. Cut a second piece of tape of the same length. Flip the wax paper over and stick the second piece to the wax paper, making sure it lines up with the tape on the other side. Trim away extra wax paper.
2. Draw onto the duct tape any shapes that will be at the top and bottom of your bookmark, such as the bunny's ears, the branches on the sloth's tree, and arms, legs, and tails. Use scissors to trim around these parts.
3. Create shapes, such as the zebra's snout and stripes, the dog's ears, and the sloth's face. Cut and place a piece of duct tape on another piece of wax paper. Draw the desired shapes onto the duct tape. Cut out the shapes. For each shape, pull the wax paper away and place the shape onto your bookmark.
4. Use permanent marker to draw eyes, a mouth, a nose, fingers, and toes.
5. For the lion's mane, place duct tape on the wax paper. Draw a circle on the tape and cut it out with pinking shears. Pull the wax paper away and place mane on the bookmark. Make the lion's face by tracing a smaller circle on a piece of duct tape on wax paper. Remove wax paper and place face in the center of the mane.



ECO TIP
OF THE WEEK

BUY PRODUCTS WITH LESS PACKAGING

You may notice that most things you buy come in packaging that immediately gets thrown away. This can be harmful to the environment because packaging uses up natural resources and fills landfills. One way you can cut down on this waste is to choose products that have less or no packaging. At the grocery store, you and your family can bring reusable bags to collect fruits and vegetables instead of buying produce pre-wrapped in plastic. When shopping for other products, compare packaging. For example, you could buy bar soap that comes in a cardboard box, which is biodegradable (able to break down), instead of a plastic bottle of liquid soap.



Bring reusable shopping bags to the store.



Puzzles



Crisscross

Each of these things associated with board games fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters

BOX

4 letters

DICE

PASS

ROLL

5 letters

CARDS

RULES

6 letters

FINISH

SQUARE

TOKENS

7 letters

PLASTIC

SPINNER

8 letters

SCOREPAD

STRATEGY

YOUR MOVE

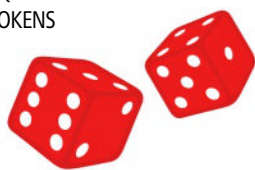
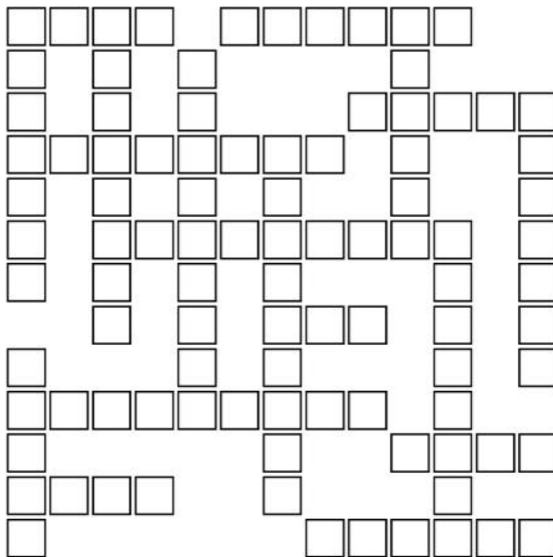
9 letters

ADVANTAGE

EXTRA TURN

GAME BOARD

PLAY MONEY



ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters A-N-Y. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. European country whose capital is Berlin

ANY

2. Narrow gorge with steep cliff walls, like Arizona's "Grand" one

ANY

3. Large business, like a corporation

ANY

4. Necklace-like cord for a whistle or an ID card

ANY

5. Current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

ANY

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Take five

Five 5-letter things that are hot are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

S	L	B	V	A
C	A	I	N	E
E	T	A	E	I
F	M	O	L	E
S	H	U	M	R

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

3			6		
		4		5	
	2				3
5				6	
	4		2		
		2			5

Spot the difference

These two pictures of rubber ducks in a carnival game appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





A new type of pool noodle

Float on some fun pasta shapes

If you love swimming and Italian food, you can now enjoy both at the same time—by bobbing along on a giant piece of inflatable pasta. The Standard, a hotel company, is selling quirky pool floats in various tasty-looking pasta shapes, including ravioli, tortellini, and sheets of lasagna. The floats come in fake pasta boxes with silly “nutrition facts” on the side, such as the amount of fun, mischief, and chill, plus “zero grams” of regret. A float shaped like a tube of elbow macaroni will cost pool-based pasta lovers about \$70.



The ring holds precious memories.

A seafood-studded proposal

Sandy Sikorski and Ken Steinkamp got engaged with a most unusual ring. The Rhode Island couple had been eating clams at one of their favorite restaurants in 2021 when Sikorski found a large, round pearl inside a shell. She brought the pearl to a local jewelry store and was told it was a “one in a million” find. The jeweler set the pearl in a gold ring, and Steinkamp recently used it to propose marriage. “It is possible to make something beautiful from something you take for granted,” Sikorski said. “A little thing you found in a clam.”



This job will draw a crowd.

Great gig for a card game fan

Getting paid to play games sounds like a dream, right? The Mattel toy company is making it a reality for one lucky fan of the game Uno. The company is seeking a “Chief Uno Player,” who will be tasked with playing a new edition of the game, called Uno Quatro, four days a week for four weeks. The player will star in videos on social media and challenge strangers in New York City to play the game, earning \$4,444 a week in pay. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and like “to get WILD (in a nice-ish way).”

Real or fake?



Was the planet shocked by her performance?

A truly earthshaking concert

Taylor Swift is known for her hit song “Shake It Off,” but few could have imagined she meant the surface of the Earth. According to scientists, a Taylor Swift concert in Seattle caused so much vibration that nearby equipment detected movement of the Earth’s crust. The ground shook as much during the concert as it would have during an earthquake rated 2.3 on the Richter scale, which is used to measure quake intensity. Is this story real, or did you know it was trouble?*

*Real! Scientists believe the so-called “Swift Quake” was caused by the concert’s sound system and the 70,000 “Swifties” moving in sync with the music. It’s still not known which song caused the ruckus.



Your turn

Editor's note

When this issue of *The Week Junior* went to press, Hawaii had experienced one of the worst wildfires in US history (p4). When a disaster like this happens, it can be difficult to comprehend the enormity of the destruction and the heartbreak it causes. It can also be comforting to focus on the many people who have stepped up to help. At *The Week Junior*, there is a quote from Mister Rogers that we focus on when we research stories about upsetting events: "Look for the helpers." From international aid workers to local heroes, they are always there in times of crisis. If you'd like to help, talk to your family about what you might do. We have some suggestions in the box on page 4, and you may have additional ideas of your own. Let us know what they are at hello@theweekjunior.com. And to all our readers in Hawaii: Please know we are thinking of you and your families.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Helping people in India

“This year I got an opportunity to volunteer at Shelter Associates (SA) in India. SA is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of people in need in urban areas, many of whom lack sufficient food, clean water, and bathrooms. I was able to work directly with people, and the experience was life-changing. Among other programs, the group installs toilets in homes and provides workshops for girls on how to manage their periods. I hope SA can continue helping more people.”



Urja, 12, New Jersey

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What is a belt with a watch on its buckle?
A waist of time

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



The Grey Muzzle Organization

This group cares for the well-being of senior dogs that don't have homes. It grants money to animal shelters and other groups that provide medical care to older dogs to increase their chance of being adopted. It provides special medical beds to older dogs in need and has given more than \$3.8 million to animal welfare groups in the US, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Find out more at greymuzzle.org.



Tell us about your school!

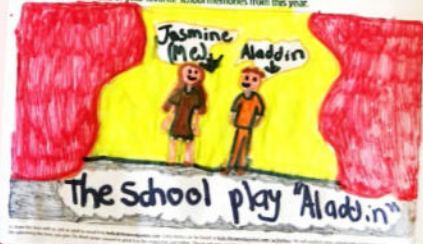
Kaleigh, who is 11 years old and in sixth grade, told us she likes the acting program at her school. It gives kids a fun way to get involved. She also said her school makes everyone feel included and has a variety of clubs, such as for chess and sign language. To tell us what's great about your school, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues of *The Week Junior*.

What's great about your school?

Name: Kaleigh C. Age: 11 Grade: 6th
What's a fun event or activity at your school? What makes it special?
Acting. I think the acting program is the best activity at my school. I think this because not many private schools do acting programs and they usually just do sports. But not everyone likes sports. What do you think makes your school stand out?

Everyone is included. All the staff are nice, SA clubs and really unique events like sign language and chess club.

Draw a picture of one of your favorite school memories from this year.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I traveled to Arizona to see the Grand Canyon this summer, and *The Week Junior* issue couldn't have come at a better time."

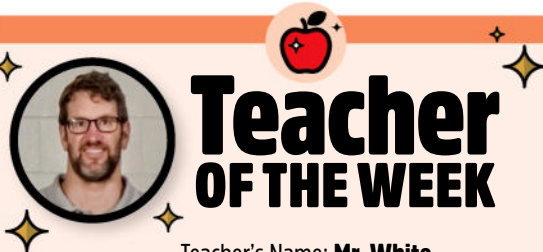
Elle, 10, Florida

"We had so much fun making these bars on a rainy afternoon. Absolutely delicious!"

Dylan, 9, Pennsylvania



"I vote that beaches are better than pools from your recent Big Debate." Vivian, 8, California



Teacher's Name: **Mr. White**

School: **Garrett Park Elementary School**

"Mr. White is the best teacher because he always makes us laugh and tells funny stories about himself. He makes learning very fun. He also turned his classroom into a castle and it looked very cool. Mr. White is the best third-grade teacher ever."

Connor, 9, Maryland

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

PASS FINISH
L C E Q
A O X R U L E S
S T R A T E G Y A P I
T E R R A R I
I P L A Y M O N E Y N N
C A T E O N E R
C D U B O X U E R
A D V A N T A G E M
R R R O L L
D I C E D V
S T O K E N S

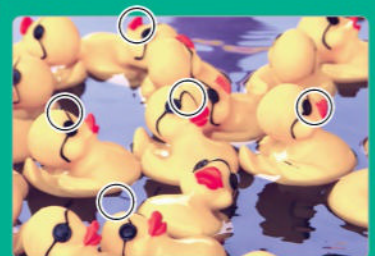
Take five

sauna
chili
ember
flame
stove

All the same

1. Germany
2. canyon
3. company
4. lanyard
5. Netanyahu

3	5	1	6	2	4
2	6	4	3	5	1
4	2	6	5	1	3
5	1	3	4	6	2
1	4	5	2	3	6
6	3	2	1	4	5



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 HMS Beagle 2 c) *The Monkey King* 3 True 4 c) New York 5 c) Iowa 6 Viv
7 c) Angola 8 *The Hobbit* 9 b) Emmy 10 False. It was found in the Pacific Ocean.
11 c) Pittsburgh 12 c) Sacramento Republic FC 13 Uno 14 b) 1976 15 a) Josh Allen

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What was the name of the ship that Charles Darwin sailed on in 1831?

2 The Chinese novel *Journey to the West* inspired what new movie on Netflix?

a) *The Dragon King* b) *The Panda King*

c) *The Monkey King*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? A house in Indonesia was built using recycled diapers.

True ☐ False ☐

4 A team from which state won the Little League Softball World Series?

a) North Carolina

b) New Mexico

c) New York

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Candidates hoping to be the Republican nominee for US President recently visited which state fair?

a) Illinois b) Indiana c) Iowa

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

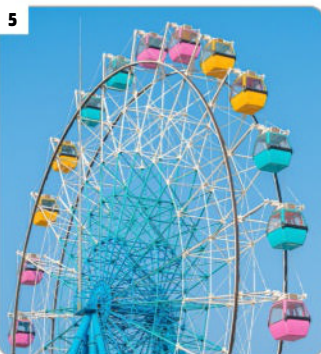
6 In the book *Picture Day*, what name does Olivia Sullivan want to be called by?

7 A group of giraffes have been released into Iona National Park in which country?

a) Algeria b) Argentina c) Angola

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What was the title of the first fantasy book published by J.R.R. Tolkien?



9 Keivonn Woodard is the first Black deaf actor to be nominated for which award?

a) Oscar b) Emmy c) Tony

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? The fourth octopus nursery ever found was recently discovered in the Atlantic Ocean.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Art made from repurposed materials is on display at a botanic garden in which city?

a) Baltimore b) Cleveland

c) Pittsburgh

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 Da'vian Kimbrough made history when he signed with which soccer team?

a) Charleston Battery b) Indy Eleven

c) Sacramento Republic FC

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 The Mattel toy company is looking to hire someone to play a new version of which game?

14 Russia has launched its first mission to the Moon since what year?

a) 1966 b) 1976 c) 1986

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Who is on the cover of the video game Madden NFL 24?

a) Josh Allen b) Joe Burrow

c) Patrick Mahomes

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

Editor-in-chief: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Gail O'Connor, Jennifer Li Shotz
Features editor: Joey Bartolomeo
Senior research editor: Douglas Grant
Senior staff writer: Alisa Partlan
Staff writer: Felissa Allard
Associate editors: Brielle Diskin, Brandon Wiggins
Creative director: Dean Abatemarco
Production director: Paul Kramer
Senior art director: Victoria Beall
Photo editor: Nataka Hewling

Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Lily Alt, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Ruth Margolis, Bari Nan Cohen Rothchild, Liz Callahan Schnabolk, Asha Sridhar, Jordan Zakarin
Senior VP: Sophie Wybrew-Bond
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
VP, consumer marketing: Nina La France
Consumer marketing director: Leslie Guarnieri
Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Publisher: Stevie Lee (stevie.lee@futurenet.com)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Editor-in-chief, The Week: Bill Falk

Reader submissions: hello@theweekjunior.com
Customer service: TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
Editorial news: news@theweekjunior.com
New subscriptions: theweekjunior.com
 ©2023. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers. *The Week Junior* (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 6, January 13, July 7, and September 15. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor,

New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

Connectors. Creators. Experience Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)

Chief Executive Officer **Jon Steinberg**
 Non-Executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
 Chief Financial and Strategy Officer **Penny Ladin-Brand**

www.futureplc.com Tel +44 (0)225 442 2444

The Week Junior will take you places



When you give a gift of *The Week Junior*, you inspire a child in your life to explore interests, read about the world around them, and learn something new every week.

Smart, fun, educational. Written for kids ages 8–14. Perfect for birthdays, holidays, or anytime you want to delight a child you love. They'll thank you every week.

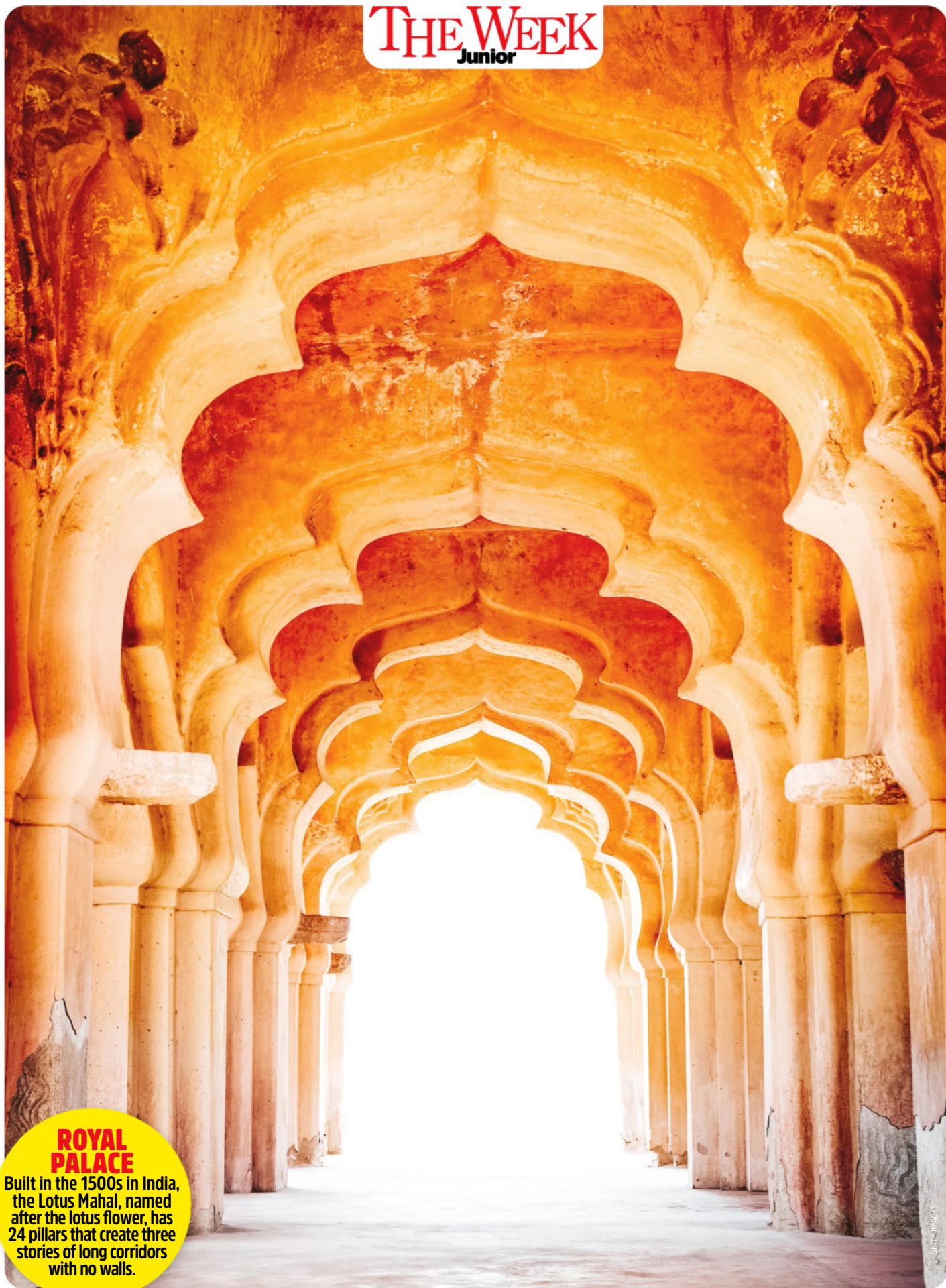
Give 25 weekly issues and save 66%, plus get a free gift!

Order online at
theweekjunior.com/travel

SAVE
66%

Order
NOW! ▶
Scan This





ROYAL PALACE

Built in the 1500s in India, the Lotus Mahal, named after the lotus flower, has 24 pillars that create three stories of long corridors with no walls.